

# CRC ENERGY TRANSITION LECTURE SERIES 2024

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## Repurposing Idle Oil and Gas Wells to Thermal Energy Storage Systems for Long Duration, Dispatchable Electricity Delivery

There are over 49,000 idle oil and gas wells in California. State and local regulators apply pressure to abandon these wells, but their abandonment comes at a significant and often underfunded cost, and many are sources of actual or potential methane emissions. Converting these assets to Thermal Energy Storage Systems (TES) permanently seals off emissions, provides long duration energy storage and leverages tax credits available in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for this conversion. Idle oil and gas wells are ideal environments for a TES due to their large volumes and high thermal insulation. TES provides long duration storage to augment intermittent and cyclic energy to balance generation and demand. The national Asset Retirement Obligation for these wells is in the billions of dollars. Converting idle assets to zero emissions electrical generation can reduce this cost by half, shut in actual or potential methane emissions, and clean up surface facilities.



**Bill Bartling**  
*Director of Regulatory Affairs  
at Geo2Watts*

### ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Bill Bartling is the retired Chief Deputy for CalGEM, formerly known as DOGGR, Co-Founder and Director of Regulatory Affairs for Geo2Watts, advisor for Lillianah Technologies and living in Prescott Arizona. Prior to joining DOGGR in 2015 Bill was General Manager of Borehole Imaging for OptaSense Ltd, President and CEO of SR2020, Sr. Director of Market Strategy at Silicon Graphics Inc, CEO of SciFrame, Inc., Mgr. of Technical Computing at Occidental Petroleum, Sr. VP of Software Eng. at CogniSeis Development and Earth Scientist/Manager in exploration, production and research at Chevron. Ongoing technical projects include energy transformation, carbon sequestration and management, subsurface/reservoir modeling and interpretation and medical imaging technologies along with tennis, hiking and mountain biking. Bill has a BA in Biology from UCSB and MS in Geology from San Diego State, is VP of SEG Pac. Section, is on the Advisory Board of the SDSU Center for Computational Sciences and is a member of SPE, AAPG and SEG.

**OCTOBER 30, 2024 | 4 pm to 5 pm | ZOOM LINK**

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